

## John Randolph to Andrew Jackson, February 26, 1832, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### JOHN RANDOLPH TO JACKSON.

Roanoke, February 26, 1832.

*My dear Sir*, I wished to write you a long letter but I am sorely beset by my own affairs having at least one hundred unanswered (and I fear unanswerable) letters on my file, Many of these on business of great concernment to me, and I have had heavy losses by not being able to attend to my affairs.

This Russian Campaign has been a Pultowa or *Beresina* to me although I am neither Charles XII of Sweden nor Buonaparte, but a poor and half ruined Virginia Planter. It is well that I was put out of the notion of going to Italy. Another year abroad would have given my estate a shock that it could not have recovered in a life time. As it is I have lost two crops at my three best plantations. Every overseer on the river proved a scoundrel who bribed the negroes with the plunder of my property to wink at their own depredations, My agent Mr Leigh overwhelmed with business of his own, entirely trusting to these same overseers who pillaged me without mercy.

The enclosed is worthy of republication at this juncture. Ritchie<sup>1</sup> refused to insert either, although I pressed him to do so. *His holding with the Hare and running with the hounds* has damned him with all the old Republicans in Virginia. If the Bug were worth my resentment I could crush him. But Hamilton will do that in his nullifying paper at Charleston, and the Coalition detest him. Like all other double dealers (when found out) he will be abandoned by every party and every man in the U. S.

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1 Thomas Ritchie, who for some forty years was editor of the Richmond Enquirer.

Beware of his *friendship* His enmity is now powerless *to do harm* to any one. Pray excuse my abruptness as I am barely in time for the post and have to send this scratch 12 miles to the Post Office thro this horrid weather.

Asses milk and sarsaparilla and rigid abstemiousness from every thing else but these articles of sustenance and diet except Cows milk and unleavened bread have wrought such a change in me that if this Ant-Arctic winter ever closes I shall pay you a visit at Washington as soon as the roads are passable. At present they are impracticable to any thing but mail Carts. It has been hailing and sleeting three days and now the freezing Rain falls as if the store house were inexhaustible.

I am My Dear Sir most sincerely and faithfully your's

Before sending the enclosed paper for publication please to have cut off my strictures upon R. in the margin which are for *your* eye only.